

Conclusions: It seems apparent from observations covering nearly the entire range of the animal, that *Ambystoma opacum* breeds in the fall. Fertilization is internal, takes place on land, and there is presumably a copulation. The eggs are separate from each other, and are laid in hollows in the ground excavated by the mother, who remains with the eggs, lying on top of them. The nests are in places such that they will be flooded during the winter. The eggs can stand a long desiccation and such eggs hatch almost immediately upon being put into water. The new born larvae have balancers and forelimbs. The larvae transform in the following spring at a length of about 3 inches.

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DIADOPHIS AMABILIS IN MISSOURI.

Cope recognized four forms of *Diadophis amabilis* distinguished by coloration. The specimen under consideration conformed in every way to the variety *Diadophis amabilis amabilis*. Cope listed his specimens of this variety as collected in California and Louisiana, while he gave the probable distribution of the species as Pacific, Central or Sonoran.

Ditmars recognizes only one variety, *pulchellus*, which inhabits Oregon and California. He gives the distribution of *Diadophis amabilis* as Texas westward to the Pacific, northward to Washington, and Sonora, Mexico.

It is interesting then that this species was found in Macon, Missouri, October 4, 1916, coiled near the roots of some matted grass. It measured 24 centimeters in length and had the vivid coloration of a young snake. The scales were arranged in 15 rows and superior labials numbered 7. The dark spots on the orange of the ventral surface were irregularly

placed thus distinguishing it from *Diadophis punctatus* and the circle of color about the neck and the underside of the tail were a brilliant coral red.

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